

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 17-19. Please amend Claims 1 and 11. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A sled module for a mass storage device comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted signal connector;
 - a mass storage device having an enclosure and a signal connector; and
 - spacers positioning the mass storage device within the housing at a position juxtaposed with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connector on the circuit board and the signal connector on the mass storage device are aligned with one another, the spacers thus permitting the sled module to mate directly without an intervening signal cable with mass storage devices having signal connectors with different positional configurations.
2. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 additionally comprising:
 - a cover, wherein the cover has a hole for allowing the mass storage device to protrude through the cover when in its mounted position.
3. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device has a data interface port and a power supply port and the circuit board has a data interface connector and a power supply connector.
4. (Previously Presented) The sled module of claim 3 wherein the spacers position the mass storage device such that the data interface and power supply ports on the mass storage device mate with data interface and power supply connectors on the circuit board.

5. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.
6. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, or digital tape drive.
7. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.
8. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.
9. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.
10. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for mounting a mass storage device having an enclosure and a signal connector comprising:

providing a sled module comprising a housing, a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted signal connector;

positioning spacers within the housing such that the mass storage device, when inserted into the housing, is positioned with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connector on the circuit board and the signal connector on the mass storage device are aligned with one another, the spacers thus permitting the sled module to mate directly without an intervening signal cable with mass storage devices having control signal connectors with different positional configurations; and

inserting the mass storage device within the housing.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.
16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.

17-19 Canceled